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# Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 USIE-00 PRS-01 SS-15 SSO-00 PC-05

PA-02 /038 W
---------- 117116
O 242335Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2974

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 0937

FOR CU/ARA

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER HENRY A), CS
SUBDECT: SECRETARY'S VISIT: REMARKS TO US MISSION EMPLOYEES AT
BINATIONAL CENTER

HERE FOLLOWS THE TEXT OF SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER'S
INFORMAL ADDRESS TO THE U.S. MISSION EMPLOYEES AT THE CENTRO
CULTURAL COSTARRICENSE-NORTEAMERICANO AT 9:00 A.M., TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 24, 1976:

"MR. AMBASSADOR, MR. FOREIGN MINISTER, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT A RELIEF IIT IS TO BE ABLE TO SPEAK WITHOUT
BEING INTRODUCED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER. THIS NOT MEANT AS A
REFLECTION ON THE FOREIGN MINISTER WHOM I ADMIRE AND WITH WHOM
I'VE WORKED FOR MANY YEARS, BUT IT IS A TERRIBLY DISCONCERTING
EXPERIENCE TO GIVE A TALK THAT YOU THINK IS REASONABLY ELOQUENT AND
THEN HAVE HIM GET UP AND SAY ALL THE THINGS WHICH YOU THINK YOU
SHOULD HAVE SAID, AND TO DO IT WITH AN ELOQUENCE THAT NO ONE BORN
IN THE GERMANIC TRADITION CAN POSSIBLY MATCH, BUT I WANTED TO SAY
A FEW THINGS. ONE, THIS TRIP THROUGH LATIN AMERICA HAS BEEN REALLY
EXTREMELY EXCITING FOR ME BECAUSE IT HAS SHOWN ME WHAT I MIGHT
HAVE KNOWN THEORETICALLY. WHAT CLOSE HUMAN BONDS EXIST BETWEEN THE
UNITED STATES, AND I WOULD SAY, ALL OF THE COUNTRIES THAT WE
HAVE VISITED. IN OUR NEWSPAPERS WE ALWAYS READ THE RHETORIC OF
CONFRONTATION AND ALL THE FORMAL DEMANDS THAT ELOQUENT LEADERS
WHO SPECIALIZE IN ORATORY PUT FORWARD FROM TIME TO TIME. BUT WHAT
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IS NOT ADEQUATELY REPORTED BECAUSE IT PROBABLY CANNOT BE ADEQUATELY

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REPORTED IS THE CENTURY AND A HALF OF HUMAN CONTACT THAT HAS BEEN BUILT UP BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA, AND MY COLLEAGUES AND I HAVE TALKED A GREAT DEAL ON THIS TRIP OF HOW RELATIVELY EASY IT IS IF WE CAN JUST DDCIDE WHERE TO GO AND IF WE CAN EVER STOP SQUABBLING AMONG OURSELVES TO DO WHAT IS NEEDED TO SHOW IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE WHAT FREE PEOPLES WORKING TOGETHER CAN ACHIEVE. IN THIS SENSE IT IS FITTING THAT I SHOULD END MY TRIP HERE IN COSTA RICA. IT MAY BE A SMALL COUNTRY, IT IS A SMALL COUNTRY, AND THOSE WHO MEASURE INFLUENCE BY GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT AND BY TECHNICAL CRITERIA WOULD NOT RATE IT AT THE VERY TOP OF THE SCALE. BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, COSTA RICA IS A DEMOCRACY AND THE WISDOM OF ITS FOREIGN POLICY, THE COURAGE OF ITS LEADERS HAVE EARNED IT A RECOGNITION AND AN INFLUENCE WHICH IS TOTALLY OUT OF PROPORTION TO WHAT YOU WOULD CALCULATE FROM SIMPLY LOOKING AT WHAT THE MARXISTS CALL OBJECTIVE FACTORS AND THEREBY IT DEMONSTRATES THAT INTANGIBLE FACTORS AND HUMAN QUALITIES AND POLITICAL CONCEPTIONS STILL COUNT FOR A LOT IN CURRENT INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. MUST

SAY THAT THE WARMTH OF THE RECEPTION THAT I HAVE HAD HERE, THE EXCELLENT TALKS THAT I HAD WITH THE PRESIDENT, AND WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAVE BEEN A VERY FITTING CLIMAX TO MY TRIP. NOW A FEW WORDS ABOUT WHAT YOU LADIES AND GENTLEMEN ARE DOING. YOU LADIES AND GENTLEMEN IN YOUR DAILY EFFORTS ARE DEMONSTRATING THE VALIDITY OF THE GENERAL OBSERVATIONS I MADE EARLIER. WE CAN TALK ALL WE WANT ABOUT BUILDING A NEW WORLD OF COOPERATION AND MOVING FROM AN ERA OF CONFRONTATION TO AN ERA OF COOPERATION. BUT UNLESS SOMEBODY IS WILLING TO GO OUT THERE AND DO IT THESE BECOME ABSTRACT STATEMENTS. WE CAN SIGN AS MANY HIGH SOUNDING DECLARATIONS OF PRINCIPLES BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTERS AS WE WANT BUT SOMEBODY HAS TO TRANSLATE IT INTO THE DAY TO DAY EXPERIENCE OF DIPLOMACY AND INTO THE DAY TO DAY ACTIONS OF PEOPLE. I AM VERY IMPRESSED BY WHAT I HAVE SEEN OF THIS CENTER, AND I HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED VERY STRONGLY IN THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PEACE CORPS AND OF THE VARIOUS OTHER PROGRAMS THAT WE HAVE IN COUNTRIES AS THESE AND ALL OVER LATIN AMERICA AND IN MANY OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD AND IN MY CAPACITY AS SECRETARY OF STATE I HAVE OF COURSE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF WORKING VERY CLOSELY WITH THE FOREIGN SERVICE. I RECOGNIZE THAT BASICALLY FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS BELIEVE THAT I ENTERED THE STATE DEPARTMENT THROUGH LATERAL ENTRY. AND THAT I PROBABLY COULD NOT HAVE MADE IT IF I HAD HAD TO GO THROUGH THE REGULAR PROCESSES THAT THEY DO.
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BUT GIVE, SHALL WE SAY,THIS PROFESSIONAL DEFORMATION AND GIVEN THE FACT THAT OCASSIONALLY I INSIST ON EXERCISING MY OWN JUDGMENT WHICH I WANT TO ASSURE YOU ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS IS TRYING TO REUDUCE TO AN ABSOLUTE UNAVOIDABLE MINIMUM, GIVEN ALL THESE INHIBITIONS UNDER WHICH YOU ALL HAVE TO OPERATE,YOU HAVE BORNE WITH ME AMAZINGLY WELL AND WE DO HAVE THE MOST DEDICATED AND MOST PRO-FESSIONAL FOREIGN SERVICE OF ANY COUNTRY THAT I HAVE DEALT WITH. FOR THOSE OF US WHO HAVE TO MAKE DECISIONS IN WASHINGTON IT IS

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REALLY CRUCIAL THAT WE GET FREQUENT AND ACCURATE REPORTING, AND
IF I AM VERY INSISTENT SOME OF YOUR CABLES ARE EVEN PERMITTED TO
COME THROUGH TO ME, ESPECIALLY THOSE THAT HAVE NO IMPLICATIONS FOR
IMMEDIATE DECISON. BUT, YOU THINK I AM JOKING. BUT I DO WANT YOU
TO KNOW THAT I DO MAKE AN EFFORT TO READ A LOT OF THE REPORTING
CABLES BECAUSE I FEEL THAT IT IS VERY DIFFICULT FOR ME TO MAKE A
DECISION ON A CURRENT PROBLEM OR ON AN IMMEDITE ISSUE UNLESS I
KEEP MYSELF INFORMED ABOUT THE GENERAL TRENDS IN AN AREA, THE
BASIC TENDENCIES THAT ARE DEVELOPING, AND I THEREFORE RELY VERY
MUCH ON THE OFFICERS IN THE FIELD AND I HAVE NOT BEEN DISAPPOINTED.
OUR AMBASSADOR I HAVE KNOWN FOR A LONG
TIME AND VERY FAVORABLY AND HE NOT ONLY HAS MY PROFESSINAL CONFIDENCE
BUT MY VERY HIGH PERSONAL REGARD. SO THAT YOU LADIES AND GENTLEMEN
WHO ARE IN RALLY AN IMPORTANT COUNTRY TO US IN LATIN AMERICA,
IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT SHARES SO MANY OF OUR VALUES, IMPORTANT
BECAUSE IT HAS NEVER BEEN AFRAID TO STATE ITS FRIENDSHIP, IMPORTANT
BECAUSE IT HAS HAD A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN HEMISPHERIC RELATIONS,
IMPORTANT BECAUSE LAST YEAR IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL IT HAD THE
COURAGE TO STAND FOR ITS CONVICTIONS WHEN MANY MUCH MORE POWERFUL
NATIONS WERE TRYING TO TRIM WITH THE CURRENTS OF THE PERIOD. AND
IMPORTANT BECAUSE WE IN THE WESTERN HEMISHERE HAVE TO DEMONSTRATE
WHAT FREE PEOPLES WORKING TOGETHER CAN ACHIEVE. SO I AM GLAD
THE AMBASSADOR GAVE ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH YOU ALL, TO
THANK YOU PERSONALLY, AND TO TELL YOU THAT YOUR ARE VERY MUCH
APPRECIATED, THAT WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND FOR YOUR
SERVICE. THANK YOU VERY MUCH." END TEXT.
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# Message Attributes

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